Technology in Rural Transportation

A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective, "low-tech" solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed or implemented by local transportation professionals. One of these solutions is outlined below:

Learn all about the simple solutions on the Internet at http://inform.enterprise.prog.org

The simple solutions report is available from Hau To at (503) 892-2533, or email: to@crc-corp.com

Corridor Management During Avalanches

Overall goal:	To improve the safety of drivers in areas prone to avalanches.
Technical approach:	This NCHRP-Idea project aims to test technologies along a 16-mile stretch of roadway where there are 57 established avalanche paths. Traffic logging stations at either end of the corridor and avalanche sensors at the roadside are being installed. Based on readings from the roadside sensors, automatic gates will prevent drivers from entering the corridor during avalanches. As traffic counts will be made at the entry and exit of the corridor, it can be calculated if any vehicles remain in the corridor at the onset of the avalanche. This will facilitate better-informed rescue operations if necessary.
Current status:	The system is currently installed.
Location / geographic scope:	The test corridor is located on State Route 21 in Idaho.
Agencies involved:	Utah DOT, Idaho DOT, FHWA, University of Utah.
Cost information:	Precise costs not yet available for this test. Costs would vary widely based on the scope and configuration of any one site. Cost estimates can range from $500,000 to $3 million per site, which may include engineering work, installation and equipment.
Key contacts:	Rand Decker, University of Utah. (801) 581-3403
Have goals been	Results of the corridor study are not yet available, but from site specific

Technology in Rural Transportation

A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective, "low-tech" solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed or implemented by local transportation professionals. One of these solutions is outlined below:

achieved?

testing in Utah and Colorado, the system has some reliability issues. However, it has been satisfactory in keeping trucks and cars out of the paths of avalanches.

Solution timeline:

Implementation is dependent on funding of each system. No information on whether Idaho will implement this system on a corridor-wide or site-specific basis.

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Funded by

ENTERPRISE